

BEING DIFFERENT!

Ephesians 4:17-24

**God calls us as Christians to be different!
Let's look at some of His commands.**

I. QUIT! (17-19)

- Don't walk like the heathen! (17a)

A. QUIT NAIVE PURSUITS (17b)

B. QUIT IGNORANT STUPIDITY (18a)

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. - II Cor. 4:3-4

C. QUIT HOPELESS EXISTENCE (18b)

1. Their Condition: Excluded from the life of God
2. The Causes
 - a. Ingrained ignorance - Romans 3:10-18
 - b. Stubborn resistance - Romans 1:18-20

D. QUIT PASSIONATE IMPURITY (19)

1. They are anesthetized
2. They are flagrantly indecent and promiscuous - See Gal. 5:19-21
3. They greedily, readily practice every kind of impurity

II. CONSIDER (20-21)

- Reflect on the Christian perspective

A. CONSIDER THE ANALYSIS (20)

1. This is not the Christian way!
2. This has nothing to do with what you learned about Christ
3. Depravity is not compatible with discipleship

but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹ "If your right eye makes you stumble, tear it out and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. ³⁰ "If your right hand makes you stumble, cut it off and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to go into hell. - Matt. 5:28-30

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B. CONSIDER THE ASSUMPTION (21)

1. Conclusion: You have been taught Christian truths
2. Comments
 - a. You have heard: Engaged in active listening
 - b. You have learned: Become skilled with practical applications
3. Question: You did listen and hear, didn't you?

III. CHANGE (22-24)

- Put off the old lifestyle and put on a new one.

A. REMOVE (22)

1. The Action: Shake it off
2. The Attire
 - a. It's association: It is part of your old self
 - b. It's contamination: Corrupted

B. RENEW (23)

1. A Reformation: Think differently!
2. A Regulation: In the inmost recesses of the mind

C. REPLACE (24)

1. This is an Active Decision
2. There is an Attractive Distinction
 - Something totally new
3. There is a Godly Design
 - a. The Creator: Makes all things new
 - b. The Characteristics: Right conduct and commitment

CONCLUSION:

It takes effort to be different!

- Conformity comes naturally ... being Christian doesn't

Will you be devoted to "differentness"?

"Therefore, come out from their midst and be separate," says the Lord. "and do not touch what is unclean; and I will welcome you. - II Corinthians 6:17

"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for *God's* own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; - I Peter 2:9